

# Ducklings Out of School Club

Inspection report for early years provision

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**Unique Reference Number** EY136809  
**Inspection date** 06 June 2007  
**Inspector** Michael Collins

**Setting Address** Stoke Climsland, Callington, Cornwall, PL17 8PD

**Telephone number** 07813 929171

**E-mail**

**Registered person** Ducklings Out of School Club

**Type of inspection** Childcare

**Type of care** Sessional care

## ABOUT THIS INSPECTION

The purpose of this inspection is to assure government, parents and the public of the quality of childcare and, if applicable, of nursery education. The inspection was carried out under Part XA Children Act 1989 as introduced by the Care Standards Act 2000 and, where nursery education is provided, under Schedule 26 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998.

This report details the main strengths and any areas for improvement identified during the inspection. The judgements included in the report are made in relation to the outcomes for children set out in the Children Act 2004; the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding; and, where nursery education is provided, the *Curriculum guidance for the foundation stage*.

The report includes information on any complaints about the childcare provision which Ofsted has received since the last inspection or registration or 1 April 2004 whichever is the later.

### The key inspection judgements and what they mean

*Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality*

*Good: this aspect of the provision is strong*

*Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound*

*Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough*

For more information about early years inspections, please see the booklet *Are you ready for your inspection?* which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk).

## THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### WHAT SORT OF SETTING IS IT?

Ducklings Out-of-School Club has been registered since 2002. It operates from a hall in the primary school which is situated in the village of Stoke Climsland. The setting is one of two, the other being a pre-school group, which is run by a committee of parents and interested others and serves the local area. There are currently sixty-five children from four years to eleven years on roll. Children attend a variety of sessions. The setting can meet the needs of children with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. The group opens Monday to Friday from 15.00 to 18.00 during term time only.

The setting employs four members of staff to work with the children, of these, two hold level three qualifications, one holds a level two qualification and the fourth, who is employed as the person in charge, is currently completing a level three qualification. The setting are members of 4Kids.

## THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE PROVISION

### **Helping children to be healthy**

The provision is satisfactory.

Children enjoy a good amount of space and access to outside play activities which aids their physical development. They regularly use the outside play facilities and particularly enjoy using the wheeled equipment, playing group games or walking and talking with their friends.

The setting has all of the required documentation and procedures in order to support children in being healthy. Staff actively encourage and support children in their personal hygiene, and the children's clear understanding of why and when they must wash their hands helps to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. Good cleaning regimes and regular use of anti-bacterial sprays on surfaces and equipment also ensure that good levels of hygiene are maintained. Staff collate and record information about children's allergies to ensure they can care for the children as the parents would wish, and have undergone training in the use of appropriate procedures for an allergic reaction.

Children adeptly prepare their own sandwiches and snacks, after washing their hands, and are able to access fresh drinking water whenever they wish. However, although the setting policy speaks of fresh fruit and healthy choices, the selection actually available to the children included no fruit and is limited to sugary and salty items such as jam and yeast paste.

### **Protecting children from harm or neglect and helping them stay safe**

The provision is inadequate.

Children have a good amount of space in which to move around and this is organised reasonably well by staff. They ensure that there are a selection of activities and areas for the children to choose from and children are able to play or rest as they desire.

Resources are stored appropriately and children are able to access them and make their own choices. However, there is an inadequate selection of resources for the number and range of children who attend. Also, resources which reflect a positive view of the wider world are lacking.

Whilst the appropriate policies and procedures are in place, and staff attempt to be vigilant in keeping children safe by regularly practising the evacuation plan, children's safety is compromised by a variety of issues. Staff deployment does not ensure that children are supervised at all times, which leads to individuals being 'out of sight' for inappropriate periods of time. Although the layout of the setting is appropriate for a school setting, it does mean that children are able to leave the premise unsupervised, as a variety of exits entrances are left unlocked and un-alarmed throughout the session. Also, the outside play area is not fully enclosed and is open to the general public when the setting operates. This inconsistent approach to safety places children at risk.

The setting has the required documents, policies and procedures in place to promote and safeguard children's welfare. For example staff hold appropriate first aid qualifications and an appropriate child protection policy is in place. However, even though required as an action at the last inspection, staff still do not have an adequate understanding or knowledge of child protection issues and procedures and this compromises their ability to keep children safe.

## **Helping children achieve well and enjoy what they do**

The provision is satisfactory.

An acceptable selection of activities are planned and prepared for the children and they arrive at the setting happily. Children are able to contribute to the planning and make suggestions for favoured games or activities such as football, cooking, or use of electronic games, and all seem to particularly enjoy outside and physical play. The warm, caring and consistent relationships developed by staff foster the children's trust and sense of well being. These relationships result in good adult-child interactions, which in turn help to promote the development of communication skills. The relaxed and friendly environment allows children to make confident choices and they are absorbed and very happy in their play.

## **Helping children make a positive contribution**

The provision is satisfactory.

Along with their parents, children are warmly welcomed to the setting and staff take appropriate steps to ensure that they consider and act upon individual need, family background and parental wishes. In order to further support this, staff actively support children to integrate, accept each other, and feel 'at home' in the setting. They also make sure that they plan and adapt resources and activities to take into account family context and children's individuality.

Children's behaviour is very good. They respond positively to the clear and consistent boundaries established by the staff team. They play co-operatively, share and take turns, whilst being ably supported by the staff. Children and staff have developed warm and mutually respectful relationships and the children's understanding of right and wrong increases as they respond to gentle reminders to care for their environment, the resources, and each other. However, opportunities to learn about themselves, each other, and the world around them, through planned activities and resources are lacking.

The partnership with parents and carers is satisfactory. Information about children's activities and communications passed from the school are shared verbally on a daily basis. Parents also have access to the settings policies and procedures which are available at the setting and a notice-board has been established giving further access to appropriate information.

## **Organisation**

The organisation is inadequate.

Whilst the organisation of space and resources is adequate, operational systems to support the running of the setting are sorely lacking. For example, the regulator has not been informed of significant events within the setting, such as new committee members or a new person in charge, and this is a breach of the regulations. Also procedures for checking that all adult are suitable and remain so are also lacking, and, although currently undertaking an appropriate qualification, the day to day person in charge does not hold appropriate qualifications for the role, nor is there a named deputy. There are also gaps in the settings documentation such as a lack of staff contact details, and the accurate recording of children and staff's arrival and departure. The setting does not meet the needs of the range of children who attend.

## **Improvements since the last inspection**

The setting have made limited improvements since the last inspection where they were given two actions and one recommendation. They have improved children's safety by, improving

supervision of the exit and toilet area, and by ensuring that staff's attendance and visitors to the setting are recorded. Although they have not ensured that children are unable to leave the premises unsupervised. Also they have failed to ensure that training and qualification requirements are met, nor have they developed staff's knowledge and understanding of child protection issues. Consequently these factors have impacted negatively on the inspection judgement.

### **Complaints since the last inspection**

Since 1 April 2004 there have been no complaints made to Ofsted that required the provider or Ofsted to take any action in order to meet the National Standards.

The provider is required to keep a record of complaints made by parents, which they can see on request. The complaints record may contain complaints other than those made to Ofsted.

## **THE QUALITY AND STANDARDS OF THE CARE**

On the basis of the evidence collected on this inspection:

The quality and standards of the care are inadequate - notice of action to improve. The registered person does not meet the National Standards for under 8s day care and childminding.

### **WHAT MUST BE DONE TO SECURE FUTURE IMPROVEMENT?**

#### **The quality and standards of the care**

To improve the quality and standards of care, the registered person **must** take the following actions:

- ensure that there are effective procedures in place for un-vetted persons and for checking that staff and adults are suitable to work with children, developing this to ensure that they remain suitable to do so
- develop an action plan that sets out how staff training and qualification requirements will be met and clarify the staffing structure to ensure that there is a named deputy
- provide a suitable range of equipment to meet the developmental needs of the range of children who attend and ensure that resources reflect a positive view of the wider world
- assess the risks to children in relation to the outside play area, access by the public, and children's ability to leave the premises unsupervised, and take action to minimise these, ensuring that staff deployment maximises the supervision of children
- ensure that the child protection procedure complies with those of the Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) and that all staff are fully aware of their roles and responsibilities, in particular confidentiality, and knowledge of child protection issues
- improve knowledge and understanding of the requirements set out in regulations and set in place a procedure to notify Ofsted of relevant matters, in particular any changes to staff and membership of the management committee
- ensure that all records relating to day care activities are accurate, up to date and readily accessible and available for inspection at all times, especially in relation to public liability;

staff and child registers which show arrival and departure times; and staff contact details.

These actions are set out in a *notice of action to improve* and must be completed by the date specified in the notice.

Any complaints about the inspection or the report should be made following the procedures set out in the leaflet *Complaints about Ofsted Early Years: concerns or complaints about Ofsted's role in regulating and inspecting childcare and early education* (HMI ref no 2599) which is available from Ofsted's website: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)